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Middle East & North Africa

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DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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VOP: FATAH ISSUES POLICY STATEMENT ON CURRENT EVENTS

JN031902Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1625 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee has issued the following political statement:

Masses of our Arab people and nation: The inception of Fatah resulted from the complete expression of the will of our people to challenge the fait accompli facing our case in the Arab area and in international organizations. It also resulted from the struggling expression of the will of these people to undertake national and revolutionary work with the aim of changing this fait accompli and regaining our homeland and our national rights. To achieve this, we must overcome the obstacles facing the struggle of our people no matter how hard and how difficult.

During the protracted march of the Fatah since inception, our people's struggle has faced multifaceted plots and objectives. Perhaps the most dangerous of these were the attempted outbiddings and capitulation facing our struggle, as well as the attempts by certain elements belonging to the Arab nation to commit treachery and to liquidate our revolution materially and morally.

Our fate was, still is, and will continue to be that of facing the Zionist enemy on our occupied territories, facing the U.S. potentials supporting the enemy, and facing the course of capitulation and submission to the Zionist-imperialist schemes in the Arab area.

From the establishment of the Zionist entity up to the present, events have proved the following objective facts:

1. The Zionist enemy understands only the language of force.

2. The Zionist enemy only accepts submission, bargaining and capitulation to his aggressive and expansionist objectives.

3. This enemy utilizes the time factor; he uses maneuvers and anesthetization, on the one hand, and intransigence and arrogance, on the other, to proceed in achieving his expansionist ambitions and aggressive policy.

4. Continued U.S. support for the Zionist enemy and the evasive U.S. policy in the Middle East have motivated the enemy to go beyond all limits in disregarding our nation and in challenging the will of our masses and of world public opinion.

5. The Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon represents a high point in the disregard for the Arab nation. This new occupation also represents a blow to all those who support a political settlement with the enemy, particularly the supporters of As-Sadat's initiative.

6. The policy of retreat in the face of the Zionist enemy will only prompt this arrogant enemy to continue to cling to his provocations against and disdain for the will of our nation, our people's history and the pan-Arab history of our struggle.

7. Abrogating the option of force and fighting cannot lead to a just peace. Rather it will lead to submission and capitulation to the crime of Zionist occupation of our homeland and of our Arab land; it will lead to the denial of our people's rights to determine their future and to establish their independent state in their homeland.

8. Continued permission for U.S. interests to develop and expand in the Arab area, despite the U.S. stand which is hostile to our cause and to the rights of our people, will encourage the continuation of this aggressive U.S. policy, the escalation of its support for Zionist aggression and its expansionist schemes, and the intensification of its bias to the Zionist position and to the Zionist-imperialist solutions aimed at dominating the area in favor of the interests of U.S. imperialism and its allies.

Masses of our struggling people: The essence of the U.S. policy in the area is clearly based on the following principles:

1. Refusal to recognize our people's national rights.

2. Rejection of the concept of an independent Palestinian state.

3. Encouragement of As-Sadat's initiative with the aim of isolating Egypt on the Arab level, bringing about Arab division and fragmentation, and dispersing Arab resources so as to weaken the Arabs. This is done in the service of the Zionist enemy's policy.

4. Total scorn for the Arab nation and Arab capabilities, and blatant bias in favor of Zionism and its expansionist designs in the area.

5. This U.S. policy toward our people is summed up in President Carter's recent statements when he said: I believe that a permanent settlement of the Middle East issue does not include an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank. It does not call for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. I believe that a permanent settlement will be based substantially on the home rule proposal Begin put forward.

Carter's stand toward the Arab states and his scornful attitude in dealing with them are also explained in his recent statements when he said: The first consideration in our Middle East policy was and will remain Israel's security before anything else. When the Arabs embargoed their oil in 1973 we did not abandon Israel and we will not do so now.

6. It is high time for the United States to bear the responsibility for its aggressive policy against our people and its scorn for our nation. This makes it incumbent on all the Arab states, particularly the oil countries, to proclaim their stand on this policy and to reconsider their relations with the United States, particularly since continuing to count on the U.S. position has enhanced the (?cohesion) of the U.S.-Zionist alliance and its expansionist designs and aggressions against the Arab nation, particularly the Palestinian people.

Masses of our people and the Arab nation: Having studied at its recent meetings the U.S. President's statements, the Arab situation, and the consequences which contradict our people's and nation's interests and which resulted from As-Sadat's initiative, the Fatah central committee announces its stand on all the issues raised as follows:

1. It affirms Fatah's firm position against all capitulationist settlements, against the U.S.-Israeli settlement and against all those who cooperate to achieve these settlements in the area.

2. Calls on all the Arab states to reassess Arab-U.S. relations in light of the hostile U.S. stands against the Palestinian people and their national cause and against the Arab nation. These stands are embodied in the U.S.-Zionist alliance in favor of the Zionist designs in the Arab area.

3. Reaffirms the rejection of As-Sadat's initiative and reaffirms it will confront its results--Arab division, rifts and rending of the masses.

4. Calls for the restoration of Arab solidarity on a struggle basis and on a collective commitment to repulse the Zionist occupation.

5. Stresses that continuing to cling to the initiative will mean imposing a state of Arab division and rending.

6. Notes that the call for an Arab summit conference is nullified while As-Sadat's initiative continues. Our stand on this call will be defined in light of the stand on the initiative. Any call for an Arab summit conference not based on unified Arab struggle action to confront the Zionist occupation and which does not condemn unilateral moves leads to capitulation to the machinations of the Zionist enemy and the plot to bring the area under U.S. influence and to squander the rights of the Palestinian people.

7. Stresses that the only way to confront the U.S.-Zionist plot in the area is to adopt the course of struggle which our revolution has adopted since its armed inception. Fatah calls on the Arab nation to rally round the path of struggle through which all Arab resources can be mobilized to restore the balance of forces in the area in favor of our nation and people and their legitimate struggle within the framework of a serious and positive alliance with our friends in the world.

8. Stresses that a basis for confronting the Zionist-U.S. scheme in the region cannot exist without achieving Palestinian national unity, the unity of the Palestinian revolution's aims within the framework of the PLO, and the unity of our Palestinian people's destiny inside and outside the occupied homeland; without escalating the military struggle inside our occupied territories using the necessary means of struggle against the Zionist occupation; without rejecting and confronting any attempt to bypass the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine; without rejecting the substitute homeland and adhering to our people's right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state on their national soil; and without resisting the concept of resettlement, about which talk has recently started again in Zionist and colonialist circles.

9. Notes that the Fatah Central Committee has thus decided to bolster contacts with all Palestinian organizations so as to work for the attainment of Palestinian national unity and the unity of the Palestinian revolution's aims within the framework of the democratic dialog, the principles of the Palestinian national charter, the resolutions of the Palestinian national councils, and the work for developing the unionist document of Tripoli. It has also decided to strengthen the ties with the Lebanese nationalist and pan-Arab movement as well as with all Arab national and patriotic forces and the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front so as to bolster the Palestinian stand of struggle and (?to consolidate) the Arab stand. It has also decided to widen the circle of the steadfastness and confrontation front to include the largest possible number of Arab countries which oppose capitulationist policies and unilateral solutions. It affirms complete adherence to the Cairo agreements and the appendixes concluded with the legitimate Lebanese authorities. It affirms the unity of Lebanon, its independence and sovereignty as well as its confidence in the Lebanese people and all their national and pan-Arab classes, and its support for every effort intended to end the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon. It warns all those who try to deal a blow to the Palestinian revolution and conspire against it, and calls for confronting them with various public and secret methods. It calls for facilitating the work of the UNIFIL based on these forces' stand and their role as noted at the meeting of the UN secretary general and brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

10. Notes that the Fatah Central Committee, while greeting all the forces which supported and still support the Palestinian revolution, praises the stand of the socialist countries--foremost of which is the Soviet Union--toward the cause of our people and their revolution. It also points out with pride the stands of the nonalined, Islamic and African countries in their support for the rights of our people and the struggle of our revolution, in addition to all the popular Arab states and forces which support our revolution and the struggle of our people.

11. States that the Central Committee extends greetings of steadfastness, struggle and revolution to our kinsfolk in the occupied homeland and pledges on behalf of all the revolutionaries to continue its struggle until our people realize their hopes and until their struggle is crowned with complete victory, together with the accomplishment of their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

12. Notes that the Central Committee records with admiration and respect the stand of the people of southern Lebanon, who fought with the ranks of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement side by side with the Palestinian revolution in defense of the territories of the south so as to defeat the Zionist invasion, keep the soil and protect the people of Lebanon. Our people will always proudly speak of the sacrifices of those heroes.

13. Stresses that the Central Committee, in accordance with the above-mentioned statements and proceeding from its principled commitment to this political stand, has decided to move on all the Palestinian, Arab and international fronts. This comes as part of its responsibility within the framework of the PLO and in coordination with all the revolution's factions. It is a pledge to the innocent martyrs who fell in defense of the banners of the revolution, its continuation, and its policy and principles that we will remain one unit, pushing the movement and the revolution ahead to more victories, confident of our people and Arab nation as well as our friends in this world.

Glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs! It is a revolution until victory!

'ARAFAT PRESIDES OVER PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE MEETING

JN031821Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar last night presided over a meeting of the joint central command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Our correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the events in southern Lebanon during the past few days. The general situation in Lebanon was also discussed.

'ARAFAT EXCHANGES MESSAGES WITH SOVIET LEADERS

JN031745Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met yesterday evening with Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov, Soviet ambassador to Lebanon.

The radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting the Soviet ambassador handed the general commander an important letter from the Soviet leaders. The ambassador was also handed a reply letter from Brother Abu 'Ammar.

VOICE OF LEBANON: CUBA TO TRAIN PALESTINIANS

NC031957Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Official information today revealed that Cuban elements participated in planning the attack on Tyre barracks and in laying ambushes.

The Egyptian magazine AKHIR SA'AH reports that the PLO recently signed a secret agreement with Cuba stipulating that Cuban experts train Palestinian units in guerrilla warfare.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY HOPES FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY

NC021539Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 2 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 May--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has stated that the restoration of political relations among the Arab states is a natural thing because there is no alternative to Arab solidarity in confronting the common enemy.

He said that the task of President Ja'far Numayri in his capacity as chairman of the Arab solidarity committee is not limited to the restoration of relations and purifying the Arab atmosphere, but extends to strengthening collective Arab action and restoring and consolidating Arab solidarity in the broadest sense of the word.

The secretary general added that this national task which President Numayri is undertaking demands unification of all sincere efforts and the overcoming of disputes by the Arab parties concerned so that the spirit of mutual confidence can be restored.

He expressed optimism regarding the success of President Numayri's mission despite the difficulties involved, because collective Arab action is not transient but is a strategic necessity for the future of the Arabs.

QATARI PAPER INTERVIEWS OAPEC SECRETARY GENERAL

JN020912Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 2 May--The OAPEC secretary general, Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, has called on the oil-producing countries to "plan well for their production" in a manner that will not lead to the continuation of the current surplus in daily consumption, estimated at 2 million barrels a day, most of which comes from the Arab states. He said that if the oil-exporting countries can hold current levels of production for a period of 1 or 2 years, the increase in the demand for oil will absorb this surplus.

In an exclusive statement to the Qatari magazine AL-KHALIJ AL-JADIDAH published in its latest issue, Dr 'Atiqah pointed out that consumers have an interest in the continuation of this surplus in the market, because the current price of oil is threatened by a continuation of the surplus. But it is in the interest of the oil-exporting countries not to expedite the attrition of their resources, which can dry up, because the price of oil in the future will be higher than it is now and because these countries need these resources for the longest possible period.

The OAPEC secretary general affirmed the significance of the unity of the OAPEC countries and described this unity as a "very important matter." He said: The question of these countries' need for funds should be met by giving priority to the preservation of these resources, which can dry up.

Dr 'Atiqah said that the Arab conference on energy, which OAPEC has decided to convene, will be held in Abu Dhabi early in March next year. He expressed the hope that a program will be prepared for this conference to enable those in charge of energy in the Arab homeland to exchange views and study the current and future situation of the Arab homeland as far as energy and the requirements of development are concerned.

Dr 'Atiqah said that the OAPEC program for this year and next year includes six new projects, most of which are related to oil industrialization, training qualified Arab cadres and supporting joint projects among OAPEC's member states.

Dr 'Atiqah added that no future plans have been crystalized, although related projects will be undertaken in the field of oil refining and the production of greasing oil and coal [words indistinct] as well as the study of a plan for establishing a dry dock similar to the one established in Bahrain in the Mediterranean.

BAHRAIN

HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR LEAVES BAHRAIN AFTER 4-DAY VISIT

JN030940Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 3 May--Habib Bourguiba, Jr, adviser to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, left Manama this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to the State of Bahrain. During his visit he acquinated officials in Bahrain with the regrettable incidents which took place in Tunisia recently. He also had talks with Bahraini officials on strengthening and developing relations between Bahrain and Tunisia in various fields. The talks also dealt with current Arab issues.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER WARNS OF POSSIBLE OIL PRICE RISE

LD031905Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has reasserted that the loss sustained by Kuwait and other oil-producing countries because of the fall in the value of the dollar in foreign money markets is a loss which cannot be ignored, especially as the dollar has reached its lowest point [as heard].

In an interview with the magazine AL-WATANIYAH, published by the Kuwaiti national oil company, the minister announced that all indications point out the ineffectiveness of the measures taken so far to stop the deterioration of the dollar. The minister added that the only way to compensate for the loss to which the oil-producing countries are being exposed because of the fall in the value of the dollar lies in increasing oil prices.

Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah added: Kuwait is not opposed to the use of a currency basket in line with the Geneva first or second formulas, or to the use of a new currency basket which better reflects the interests of the OPEC member states.

Regarding Kuwait's oil policy, the minister stressed that the speech by the amir had outlined the general framework within which this policy operates and which is summed up in preserving the resource and exploiting it in the (?best manner). The Oil Ministry is determined to implement this policy.

AMIR, SOVIET ENVOY EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

LD031840Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] This morning at his office in As-Sif Palace the amir received the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait. The ambassador conveyed to his highness a message from the Soviet leaders, which contained an explanation of Soviet views on the Middle East issue, and requested a clarification of Kuwaiti views on this issue. The amir reasserted Kuwait's stand, which is commitment to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, in particular those adopted in Rabat.

SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION MINISTER DENIES LINK BETWEEN OIL PRICE, F-15 SALE

LD032222Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Minister of Information Dr Muhammad Abdu Yamani emphasized that the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the prices of oil and the dollar is based on economic foundations and that the change of the kingdom's attitudes toward these issues depends on the change of these foundations. His excellency said that the kingdom's opposition to the increase of oil prices and its support for the dollar does not depend on whether or not the United States agrees to supply the kingdom with F-15 fighter planes.

He stressed that the kingdom is a responsible state and will continue to shoulder its responsibilities. In a statement to REUTER today, the minister pointed out that the 60 planes are considered to be restricted to the defense of our country.

The minister emphasized that the kingdom is not an aggressive state and that it constantly works for world peace. He explained that the opposition of Israel and its supporters to the supply to the kingdom of U.S. fighters is not due to fear of the kingdom or a potential threat from it, but to fear that the success of this deal would lead to furthering the bonds of friendship between the kingdom and the United States. Yamani considers unlikely the possibility of an emotional reaction if the Congress rejects the sale of the planes to the kingdom.

Oil Minister's Statement

LD031126Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, has denied reports put out by news agencies and attributed to the U.S. Washington POST which state that the kingdom links its support for the dollar and its oil supplies with the F-15 aircraft deal.

In a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY today, he said that his statement to the paper's correspondent was recorded and that what he actually said was that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stand on the dollar or oil production is based on a purely economic foundation and that it will not change unless this foundation is changed.

ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERS MESSAGE TO CROWN PRINCE

JN011605Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 1 May--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the regent and crown prince, received at Al-Ma'dhar Palace at 1700 today Siteke Gibson Mwale, Zambian foreign affairs minister. During the meeting, the Zambian minister conveyed a message to his highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met at 1600 with the Zambian foreign affairs minister. During the 45-minute meeting, they reviewed relations between the two countries and current developments in the Arab area in particular and the Middle East in general.

Mwale Makes Statement

JN011429Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 1 May--Zambian Foreign Affairs Minister Siteke Gibson Mwale has asserted that the kingdom's decision to open an embassy in Lusaka bolsters the relations between the two countries within the framework of Arab-African solidarity.

In a statement to SNA, the Zambian foreign affairs minister said he hopes to exchange views with Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the situation in the area and the means to develop and strengthen relations between the two countries.

The Zambian foreign minister pointed out that this is his second visit to the kingdom. He said his first visit took place several months ago, when he was leading a delegation representing the seven-member OAU committee during its tour of a number of OAPEC member states.

He added he had been looking forward to visiting the kingdom because of the strong relations between Zambia and the kingdom.

He asserted that his country believes that the struggle for justice in the Middle East and against Zionism is the same as the struggle for justice and against apartheid in South Africa.

Leaves for Home

LD022200Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Summary] Zambian Foreign Affairs Minister Siteke Mwale left Riyadh this evening for Jidda on his way back home at the end of a 2-day visit, during which he delivered a message to Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from the Zambian president. He also had talks with Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal on bilateral relations and other issues.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD032122Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2120 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Jidda, 3 May--Abdelhamid Muhri, President Boumediene's special envoy, arrived in Jidda this evening on a visit to the kingdom. SNA has learned that Muhri is carrying a message from the Algerian president to Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the king's deputy and crown prince.

SAUDI ARABIA TO CONTRIBUTE TO UN AGENCY TO AID PALESTINIANS

JN020746Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0650 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Riyahd, 1 May--Saudi Arabia has decided to give half a million riyals to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency as a contribution to assist the agency in helping the Palestinian refugees who were affected by the incidents in southern Lebanon. This was stated by an official source at the Finance Ministry, who explained that this aid expresses the concern of the wise government of His Majesty King Khalid for the conditions of the Palestinian refugees, and its interest in alleviating the burdens of their livelihood.

UAE

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

JN021947Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May--Shaykh Mubarak ibn Muhammad, UAE interior minister, returned here this afternoon from Jidda following his visit to Saudi Arabia.

In a statement on arrival, Shaykh Mubarak said that during his talks with Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi interior minister, he felt Saudi Arabia's desire to place all its potentials and experiences in the service of constructing and developing the UAE police force. He added that his meeting with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his majesty's statement regarding the interest in promoting fraternal ties between the two countries can be considered an affirmation and consolidation of the good relations between them.

The UAE minister added: During our talks in Saudi Arabia, we arrived at full agreement regarding cooperation between the two countries in the field of police work. This will help maintain security and stability in the whole region, since the security of one country is that of all, and maintaining it is a joint responsibility. He further said: Our discussions dealt with phases of cooperation, exchanges of visits among officials, and sending students for study and training in Saudi Arabia, as well as doing all we can to consolidate security.

The UAE interior minister praised the comprehensive renaissance Saudi Arabia is experiencing and said: During our visit to the security organs, we noted the extent of the progress achieved in this field. This reflects the progress Saudi Arabia has achieved in other areas.

PDRY

UPONF SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSES MAY DAY RALLY

LD012254Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 May 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Today the PDRY celebrated international workers day. Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization, the National Front [UPONF], and Brother Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the UPONF Central Committee and chairman of the Presidential Council, attended a huge rally staged this morning at the martyr Salim Umar ground at Tawahi as part of the celebrations of 1 May, international workers day.

The rally was also attended by a number of brother members from the Politburo, the Central Committee and the Secretariat General of the General Confederation of the Trade Unions of the Republic. Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the UPONF Central Committee, delivered an important speech to the rally.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said: Our celebration today of 1 May is in fact a celebration of the two great days at the same time: workers day and the day of the launching of our preparatory activities for the founding of the brand new vanguard party, the party of the Yemeni working class, the dignity, consciousness and heart of our Yemeni people.

He stressed that the fate of the revolution, its continuity and bright future, are all bound up with the (?policy) of this party, the party of the working class, because it will apply our [word indistinct] ideology.

He also stressed that the establishment of the party will mean the [word indistinct] of the class struggle and the development of the revolution and organizational work. This will require sound evaluation of the present status of the organization, sifting and cleansing it of the suspected old elements by the masses of the people [words indistinct] and work to open the doors of the organization so that it is infused with new blood from the [word indistinct] most honorable and most active of the workers, peasants, cooperative fishermen, soldiers, women and revolutionary intellectuals.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said: We are continuously working for the development of relations with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland for the good of the Yemeni people and its national sovereignty. This will require more cooperation and more collaboration.

He also confirmed that the government of the revolution directed by the UPONF Central Committee has been making every effort with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the sake of continuing normal relations and overcoming differences relating to difficulties that have occurred or might occur in these relations, to enable us to continue fraternal cooperation on the basis of peaceful coexistence, neighborliness, respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs.

He emphasized that our normal relations on these principles, over which agreement was reached at the very beginning, constitute the right path for the interest of our two fraternal peoples. He said this also confirms our stand vis-a-vis the rest of our brothers in the Arab gulf states, to whom we are bound with fraternal bonds and neighborliness.

The secretary general emphasized that democratic Yemen will always be concerned with developing its relations with the world revolutionary forces, in particular with the socialist countries, foremost of which is the Soviet Union.

NEW LAW ESTABLISHES BASIC WORKING CONDITIONS

LD302252Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali today issued Law No 14/78, the Fundamental Work Law. "The law provides for equality in the conditions and privileges of work without discrimination as to sex, age, race, color, creed or language."

"The law defines the priority to be given to the [word indistinct] rights of workers, and stipulates that the Arabic language shall be relied on in all work transactions relating to any document in a foreign language, even if authenticated with the signature of [word indistinct]. In cases where a document is written in Arabic and in another foreign language, the document in Arabic is the one to be (?relied on).

"The law defines 8 working hours per day, or 48 hours a week. The working hours shall be distributed over a period of 6 days, followed by a full paid day of rest."

"Friday shall be the weekly day of rest and may be replaced by another day of the week for all or some of the workers, depending on the need of work and the agreement of the trade unions."

"The law provides for annual leave of no less than 24 days with full pay."

"The law gives the worker the right of sick leave of no more than 6 months with full pay on the recommendation of a medical panel."

"The law gives the woman worker the right to maternity leave of 60 days."

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

JN011310Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 1 May--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has declared that relations between Saudi Arabia and the YAR are constantly developing in the interest and benefit of the two fraternal countries.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH published today, Al-Asnaj said that the two fraternal countries are working to coordinate their efforts. The best evidences of this are the joint efforts which were and are still being made to restore unity to the Arab ranks and Arab solidarity, as well as to return relations among the fraternal Arab countries to their normal course.

Al-Asnaj pointed out that the YAR's relations with Arab, Islamic and other states are based on mutual interest.

Al-Asnaj said that the convening of an Arab summit conference is urgently needed in order to draw up a definite Arab strategy for the present and future, and to preserve the safety and security of the Arab homeland. Al-Asnaj explained that the recent incidents in Lebanon have confirmed that the Zionist enemy does not want peace based on justice in the area and that aggression and colonialism constitute the crux of its policy. He said peace cannot be achieved except through Arab solidarity and the unity of the Arab ranks. He explained that this will strengthen the world public that supports the Arab cause in its support for this cause.

Al-Asnaj explained that the just peace which the Arabs seek is a peace based on Israeli withdrawal from the areas occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and on enabling the Palestinian people to regain their rights, including their rights to self-determination and to establish their national state on their land. However, the Zionist enemy does not want a just peace but seeks to seize more Arab land.

Asked about the YAR's stand on the situation in the Horn of Africa, Al-Asnaj said that the YAR's stand is clear and definite and is based on the need for peace, security and stability so that these peoples might raise the level of their development and become prosperous. He said that this cannot be achieved without a constructive and responsible dialog leading to solutions satisfactory to all sides, since it is not in the interest of the area's peoples to have foreigners in it.

EGYPTIAN CABINET RESHUFFLE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK

NC031556Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Mamduh Salim began his consultations today concerning a cabinet reshuffle. His Excellency received Dr Hamid as-Sayih, Dr Na'im Abu Talib, Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, Dr 'Ali as-Sallami, Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli Sha'rawi, Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah and Eng Ahmad Sultan. Later he received Dr Salah Hamid.

The prime minister will continue his consultations tomorrow, Thursday, by meeting with the remaining cabinet members.

The cabinet reshuffle is expected to be announced the beginning of next week.

SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA

NC031220

[Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1155 GMT on 3 May, after linking up with Voice of the Arabs radio, begins a live relay from Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria to describe the reception accorded to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on his arrival. Numayri is received on arrival by President as-Sadat and other Egyptian officials. The announcer says that President Numayri came to the palace by helicopter from Alexandria airport, where he arrived a short while ago. The announcer says that President Numayri is visiting Egypt as head of the Arab solidarity committee, which was formed to work for Arab solidarity and prepare for an Arab summit conference. President Numayri is accompanied by the Sudanese foreign minister and other officials. After the official reception ceremonies, during which the national anthems of Sudan and Egypt were played, the two presidents enter the Ra's at-Tin Palace.

AS-SADAT, NUMAYRI MAKE STATEMENTS TO NEWSMEN

NC031454Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 3 May--In reply to newsmen's questions after receiving Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri today, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat said: "I am with President Numayri to the farthest limits in the performance of his mission."

President as-Sadat said: We have severed our relations with those who call themselves the steadfastness front because they have attacked Egypt. He added: I sent word to President Ja'far Numayri, even before he embarked on his mission, that we are with him to facilitate the full accomplishment of his mission to restore relations with the proviso: that there should be no presumption made that Egypt fully espouses their positions.

President as-Sadat said: All of you are aware that each one of those who attacked Egypt is indebted to Egypt and no one can pay off his debt, whether it is the Algerian Revolution, Libya, Syria or Iraq.

President as-Sadat said: I pray God to grant Brother Numayri success in this mission. I affirm once again that we are with him 100 percent and will do as much as we can; we are prepared to bring about the success of this vital mission.

In reply to a foreign newsman's question on whether he expects an Arab summit conference to be held now, President as-Sadat said: Why not? As I have said before, we are ready to participate in this and also in bringing about the success of brother Numayri's mission in the Arab world.

Asked if he is prepared to sit with Libya, despite the fact that it is against his peace initiative, President as-Sadat said: I have said that we have no conditions or objections as to when and where this meeting takes place. Egypt will participate in the conference whether the others come or not.

Answering newsmen's questions, President Ja'far Numayri said: I am pleased to be in Alexandria to meet with my brother, President as-Sadat.

President Numayri said: I was extremely pleased yesterday when I heard brother Anwar as-Sadat say and reaffirm in his historic speech, as he has reaffirmed to me before in various letters, that Egypt does not object to and has no conditions on the convocation of any summit conference or the holding of any ministerial meeting on any level.

President Numayri said: I am pleased to hear that Egypt has not put any conditions and does not object to the restoration of relations with the Arab states that want to restore relations with Egypt provided this restoration does not place Egypt in the position of defender of their rights.

President Numayri said: That statement has pleased me and I say that it will help the mission I have embarked upon for the sake of Arab solidarity.

Begin Talks

NC032203Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Talks between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and President Ja'far Numayri began at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria this evening.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and on the Sudanese side by Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir.

The talks lasted 3 hours. After the talks the official spokesman said that during the talks President Anwar as-Sadat explained to President Ja'far Numayri the current situation and the Egyptian views on it. President Numayri explained his views regarding his moves for the sake of Arab solidarity.

The talks between the two presidents are scheduled to be resumed tomorrow morning.

President as-Sadat made a statement after President Numayri's arrival at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria. He expressed his happiness over the Sudanese president's assumption of the chairmanship of the Arab solidarity committee.

President as-Sadat said that Egypt has absolutely no objection to the convocation of an Arab summit conference, but we must be serious and the questions to be discussed must be determined so that this summit achieves something. He said that Egypt is posing no conditions for the date and place of this summit.

President as-Sadat added: I have asked the Sudanese vice president, Brother ar-Rashid at-Tahir, during his latest visit to Cairo to inform President Numayri that we are completely with him in his mission.

The Sudanese president, Ja'far Numayri, said that he was extremely pleased when he heard President as-Sadat say, and reaffirm in his historic speech yesterday, that Egypt has no objection to and is posing no conditions on the convocation of an Arab summit conference. President Numayri added: This utterance by President as-Sadat will certainly help me in accomplishing my mission for the sake of Arab solidarity.

President Anwar as-Sadat held a dinner tonight in President Numayri's honor on the occasion of his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Resume Discussions

NC041225Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 4 May 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 4 May--Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Ja'far Numayri resumed their discussions at 1215 today at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria.

President Numayri said before the discussions began that he would leave Friday for Damascus and would possibly then return to Egypt.

President Numayri said that his discussions with President as-Sadat had been good and affirmed that there is great hope that his mission to restore Arab solidarity will succeed.

TERRORISTS' INSTRUCTIONS CAME FROM BAGHDAD RADIO

LD021813Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Defendant Amal 'Abd al-Karim said that the terrorist organization [recently uncovered in Cairo] used to receive its instructions in coded messages specially transmitted by Baghdad Voice of Palestine radio which is under the control of terrorist Abu Nidal.

The agreed upon coded message began with the phrase: From Jihad to the Mountain of Olives.

CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN028148Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Amman this evening on a 4-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the minister of state for foreign affairs. He will also sign a scientific-cultural agreement and will visit several historic and tourist sites in Jordan.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, Chnoupek said that during his visit to Jordan he will hold discussions with Jordanian officials dealing with the development of relations between the two countries and will sign a scientific-cultural agreement. He added that a trade agreement between the two countries will be signed at the earliest opportunity. Referring to his country's stand on the Arab cause, the CSSR minister of foreign affairs said that the CSSR has supported Arab rights and continues to back the just Arab struggle.

Concluding his statement, Chnoupek expressed his happiness at visiting Jordan to exchange views with officials on world issues, particularly the Middle East issue. He extended an invitation to Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, to visit the CSSR.

Chnoupek is accompanied by a delegation including five senior officials from the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Badran

JN031210Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran reiterated that Jordan's firm stand on the Middle East issue is based on complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and returning to the Palestinian people all their legitimate rights, including their right to establish their homeland on their territory. He said that if this is not achieved, it will hinder the establishment of a lasting and comprehensive peace in the area.

During a meeting with Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek today, the prime minister said that the U.S.-Soviet statement issued in October was the beginning of a sound road toward establishing a just settlement within the context of UN Security Council Resolution 242. The countries of the world have unanimously concurred on the importance of implementing Resolution 242, because it outlines the bases for establishing a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The prime minister added that a formula for the Geneva peace conference, which provides for the attendance of all parties concerned, including the two superpowers, is the only way to free the presently deadlocked peace march. He said that the Begin government's attempts to thwart this international concept of peace will only lead to further instability and conflict. The Israeli Government's interpretations of Security Council Resolution 242 leave no room for suspicion that Israel does not want peace but insists on expansion and domination of the occupied Arab land.

The prime minister pointed to the fruitful efforts being made by His Majesty King Husayn to consolidate Arab solidarity through his envoys who carried an integrated working paper to the Arab kings and presidents. This paper called on them to emerge from the current situation so that the Arab forces would be able to open a new page in unified Arab action and to stand up in the face of Israeli intransigence and expansion.

During the meeting, Chnoupek expressed the Czechoslovak Government's appreciation of Jordan's firm stand toward the Middle East crisis. He stressed Czechoslovakia's support for the Arab people in their just struggle and denunciation of Israeli aggression and expansion. He stressed Czechoslovakia's support for the efforts being made to find a solution to the Middle East crisis based on the principles of the UN resolutions. He said that Begin's concept of peace is unacceptable to the Czechoslovak Government.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the two countries in all fields. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, the Jordanian ambassador to Czechoslovakia and the Czech Ambassador accredited to Jordan.

The Jordanian-Czech talks began this morning at the Prime Ministry. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim and the Czechoslovak side by Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek. During the talks they reviewed the political situation in the Middle East. The Jordanian side reviewed Jordan's views based on the principle that Arab solidarity is Jordan's firm policy. The two sides also reviewed a number of common international issues and the stand of the two countries toward international detente and disarmament. The discussion also dealt with bilateral relations in the fields of trade, culture and contacts between officials in the foreign ministries of the two countries.

The Czech foreign minister expressed his country's extreme appreciation of Jordan's firm policy and clear stand. The delegations of the two countries participated in these meetings.

Scientific-Cultural Agreement Signed

JN031711Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 3 May--The Jordanian and CSSR Governments today signed an agreement on scientific-cultural cooperation between them. The agreement provides for the development of cooperation between scientific and research institutes in the two countries through the exchange of visits by scientists and researchers, the exchange of books and scientific pamphlets, the encouragement of cooperation in the field of education by developing cooperation between universities and higher institutes, the exchange of visits by professors and teachers, and the exchange of scholarships for graduate and undergraduate work by the two governments.

The agreement also provides for the exchange of documents pertaining to the economy, culture, geography, history and governmental systems in the two countries, as well as the exchange of visits between writers, artists and folklore groups in order to hold festivals, organize exhibitions and translate and publish literary works.

The agreement further provides for the encouragement of cooperation in the fields of news agencies, radio, television and cinema; the exchange of visits by journalists and reporters and the development of sport and youth activities.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by the minister of state for foreign affairs while the CSSR foreign minister, who is currently visiting Jordan, signed for the CSSR.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN0319407 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan today received Mr Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him at the Royal Hashemite Court. His highness welcomed the increased trade with the CSSR and the eastern CEMA states. His highness called for the signing of economic agreements between Jordan and the CSSR in order to develop and promote cooperation between the two countries. His highness explained Jordan's central position concerning the developments in the region and the role imposed on Jordan because of these developments. His highness explained the economic role played by Jordan in developing the fraternal Arab countries through the export of skilled labor and expertise to these countries. He also explained the Jordanian efforts to raise the standards of Jordanian citizens so they can help implement Jordanian economic and social projects.

His highness pointed out that Jordan endeavors to benefit from the experience and skill of all people in the world in order to promote the Jordanian experience in the interests of its citizens and mankind.

The CSSR minister expressed his country's desire and readiness to increase trade with Jordan and his country's increasing interest in importing Jordanian phosphate and other Jordanian products. He also expressed his country's backing for the struggle of the Arab people against the Israeli occupation and its support for the efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs.

SWEDISH COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN0118519 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Bo Turesson, Swedish minister of communications, arrived in Amman from Damascus via Ar-Ramtha at noon today at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he will meet with senior officials and hold talks with Engineer 'Ali Suhaymat, minister of transport, dealing with cooperation between Jordan and Sweden in the fields of transport and communications.

An agreement for joint overland transport between Jordan and Sweden will be signed to facilitate the movement of tourists and cargo between the two countries.

Meets With Badran

JN0317597 Amman JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today discussed with Mr Bo Turesson, Swedish communications minister, the existing relations between the two countries in all fields. They also discussed the latest Middle East developments. The Swedish minister expressed his country's interest in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the UN resolutions on the impermissibility of acquiring the territories of others by force. The minister expressed the hope that cooperation between Jordan and Sweden will increase and develop in the future.

VOICE OF LEBANON: CLASHES RESUME BETWEEN UN FORCES, PALESTINIANS

NC0311141Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] According to reports arriving from correspondents in the south, clashes resumed this morning between UN troops and armed Palestinian groups. Although today's clashes are less severe than last night's clashes, the various UN units have gone on alert in the south in solidarity with the French and Senegalese forces, which were attacked yesterday.

It has been learned that five French soldiers and three Senegalese soldiers were killed from the shelling and in road ambushes. There are several other casualties, who were taken to hospitals in Beirut.

French Commander Salvan, who was wounded in a Palestinian ambush, was moved late last night from Tyre to the Ghazzah hospital in the Sabra camp [in Beirut], where he underwent a 4-hour operation, during which bullets were removed from his body and legs. A medical report says his condition is relatively improved. Contacts are underway to move him to the Hotel Dieu hospital in Beirut.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian attack on the French and Senegalese forces has evoked strong resentment at the French Embassy in Beirut. The French Government is expected to lodge a strong protest with the PLO and the United Nations, warning against the repetition of such attacks.

JOINT FORCES TO COORDINATE WITH UNIFIL IN INVESTIGATING INCIDENTS

JN0311649Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 3 May--The central command of the joint forces in southern Lebanon held an emergency meeting at noon today and discussed the security situation in light of the clashes which took place last night in Tyre and its suburbs between the UN troops and the joint forces.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that during the 3-hour meeting, the central command decided to form a special liaison committee to contact the UN forces and coordinate with them in connection with the investigation into the clashes, so as to assign responsibility and prevent a recurrence.

Following the meeting a responsible source in the command stated: Last night's clashes were the result of events which have accumulated over the past 5 days--the blowing up by the UN forces of joint forces ammunition dump; opening fire on two fighters of the Lebanese nationalist movement; the deployment of patrols in places other than those agreed on; and the planting of mines in the area without informing the joint forces, which has led to the wounding of some of the movement's elements.

The source added: Our enemy is the Zionist occupiers, not the UN forces. We are determined to facilitate the task of these forces within the framework of their mission to supervise the enemy's withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

BEIRUT RADIO RELEASES CASUALTY FIGURES FOR TYRE INCIDENT

NC0312007 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] The situation is now calm in the Tyre area, following yesterday's incident in which armed men and French troops attached to UNIFIL were involved. Consultations are continuing to contain the situation completely.

As a result of yesterday's battles, a French soldier was killed at the Tyre barracks, nine others were wounded and the three crew of the vehicle which was carrying Colonel Salvan and which was hit, are missing.

Colonel Salvan, commander of the French force, who was wounded when, accompanied by a PLO liaison officer, he went to investigate an attack on another UN vehicle, was flown to Paris today.

It has also been learned that four Senegalese troops are missing from the area of Hawsh Bi'al near Tyre.

Missing French Paratroopers Safe

LD0313407 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Summary] Giscard d'Estaing has paid tribute to the French UNIFIL contingent.

The three French paratroopers who were reported missing yesterday after their vehicle was hit by rockets are safe, and are in the hands of Palestinian elements in Tyre.

Colonel Salvan was operated on last night by Dr 'Arafat, brother of Yasir 'Arafat, in a Palestinian hospital in the suburbs of Beirut.

Paris Reports Casualties

LD0314227 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Summary] A spokesman for the French command in Tyre has said that 2 French paratroopers were killed, 1 Senegalese killed and 12 persons wounded. This is a correction of the figures given by the United Nations. Most of the wounded were French, and those given as missing in previous communiques were all wounded Frenchmen who had been transferred by helicopter to a Lebanese village occupied by the Israelis.

Al-Huss Comments on Incident

NC0317207 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on yesterday's clashes in the Tyre area, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: The clash which occurred in the town of Tyre with the UN peace-keeping forces is indeed regrettable, particularly since it took place at a time when all efforts should be directed toward insuring speedy withdrawal of the forces of the Israeli enemy from southern Lebanon. Lebanon's concerted efforts at the international level to compel Israel to adhere to a specific timetable for complete withdrawal from the south should be supported by a willingness to facilitate the mission of the UN forces, which only came to help insure complete Israeli withdrawal and help restore the legitimate authority to the area in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425.

Commander Salvan Makes Statement

NC031325Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Colonel Salvan, the commander of the French contingent of UNIFIL is now out of danger. In a statement to the national news agency today, he said: I assure everyone that we and the Palestinian leaders have exerted utmost efforts to bring about a cease-fire and make sure that it is respected. I exposed myself to maximum danger in an attempt to stop the fighting, especially because the incident occurred in a populated residential area.

Commander Salvan added: I ask that nobody try to seek revenge for me. I wish this to be passed to my men. What is important is that everyone should show moderation.

Further Details

NC031459Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Colonel Salvan, commander of the French UNIFIL contingent, who is now being treated at the Gaza hospital for wounds he suffered in the Tyre clashes yesterday, made a statement to the national news agency today. He said: I regret nothing. I have done my best to restore security to the area. It appears, however, that there are some who still do not realize that peace in southern Lebanon is an absolute necessity if we really want an Israeli withdrawal and a return to the negotiations table to achieve a just solution to the Palestine problem.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CABINET MEETING

NC031140Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis this morning conferred with Prime Minister Al-Huss and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus on the political and security aspects of the situation, especially the current consultations on the formation of the cabinet.

At 1100 President Sarkis chaired the cabinet meeting. The prime minister and the ministers attended, with the exception of Michel Dumit, minister of industry, petroleum and agriculture. The cabinet discussed the topics on its agenda.

The meeting ended at 1300. In a statement after the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said that the cabinet discussed political and security affairs and ordinary day-to-day matters.

Asked about the situation in Tyre, what the UNIFIL is being subjected to, and whether or not the government is taking any steps in this connection, Al-Huss said: The situation is calm in Tyre today. Really, we are making the necessary contacts.

On the cabinet situation, he said: There is nothing new to announce now. Consultations are continuing to iron out a few obstacles and the signs are that the result of these contacts will be good.

Asked whether he still does not wish to give a date for announcing the cabinet formation, he said: We cannot set a date now. We must wait.

TISHRIN SCORES CARTER CAPITULATION TO ISRAEL

JN0406537 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Washington Teaches the Arabs a Lesson," TISHRIN today says: Reports received from Washington these days are of great significance and prompt serious thought because of their international, regional and Arab implications. The friendly greeting given by Carter to Begin following the alleged dispute during the last visit and the statements made by President Carter adopting Begin's expansionist plan as a basis for any settlement, as well as Carter's rejection of the idea of a Palestinian state to start with--all this indicates that the real interests guiding U.S. policy are linked with the interests of world Zionism, which is part of world imperialism and a racist phenomenon sired by imperialism.

It is also an indication that the more powerful and influential circles in the U.S. regime are those which view Israel as a natural U.S. ally and its Trojan horse in the Middle East, as well as its major base there. These circles also view the Arab national liberation movement as a danger to their interests and investments. Many people thought after President Carter assumed office and after the statements he and his aides made on the Middle East that this might mark a change in the U.S. position toward a settlement in the area and produce a U.S. position closer to the UN resolutions and the stand of the vast majority of UN members, if not the Arab states. Nevertheless, recent developments in Washington have shown that the same forces which dictated the anti-Arab U.S. policy in the past are still dictating policy in Washington and that all the good will and ethics shown by President Carter were not able to change the balance of power within the U.S. regime.

Under the title "The Last Chapter of the As-Sadat Settlement," the same paper says: President Carter affirmed the permanent U.S. commitment to the defense of Israel and the fact that the Begin plan constitutes the basis of the As-Sadat settlement. Meanwhile, Begin expressed his satisfaction at the warm reception he was accorded on this visit, because on the last visit he did not conceal his disappointment over the White House coolness. As for As-Sadat, impatiently waiting for President Carter to apply pressure for reaching a settlement on the formula of the declaration of the general principles of the settlement, or even to produce an alternate middle-of-the-road American plan for the declaration of principles, he was shocked by the identity of the U.S. and Israeli positions on the Begin plan. However, the affirmation by U.S. officials that the U.S. stand toward the settlement has not changed prompted As-Sadat to declare in the speech he made on the occasion of the May Day rally to [words indistinct] and to talk about U.S. pledges given him that the United States is still playing a balanced role in the process of the direct settlement which resulted from his defeatist initiative.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR VIENNA EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

JN0315407 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 3 May--The Syrian delegation to the Third International Parliamentary Conference on European Cooperation and Security, which will be held in the Austrian capital this week, left Damascus today for Vienna. The delegation is made up of Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and foreign affairs committee at the People's Assembly, and Dr 'Aziz Shukri.

The conference will discuss topics regarding European security and cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical and environmental fields, as well as other topics related to philanthropic fields. The Syrian delegation will participate in this conference as an observer, together with several Arab delegations, including a delegation of the Palestinian National Council.

ALGERIA

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

LD031350Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--Pinto Da Costa, president of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, arrived this afternoon in Algiers on a 4-day friendship and working visit. He was welcomed on arrival at Dar El Beida airport by Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution.

Official Talks Begin

LD032230Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] President Boumediene this afternoon received the president of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Manuel Pinto Da Costa, who is on an official visit to our country. The talks were held at the presidential headquarters in the presence of Rabah Bitat, president of the People's National Assembly, and of Leonel Mario D'Alva, minister of foreign affairs of Sao Tome. At the end of this audience the two sides began their political talks.

GDR DEFENSE MINISTER DEPARTS ALGERIA

LD031410Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] Army Gen Heinz Hoffmann, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party and minister of defense of the GDR, who was leading a large military delegation, left Algiers this morning after a 24-hour visit to our country.

The minister of defense of the GDR, who went to Conakry, the first stage of a tour of certain African countries, was the guest at a dinner last night offered in his honor by Col Abdelhamid Latreche, secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense. Also present were Mr Ahmed Bencherif, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of irrigation, land development and environmental protection, and the ambassador of the GDR in Algiers.

The army general was seen off this morning by Col Abdelhamid Latreche, senior officers of the Ministry of National Defense and the ambassador of the GDR in Algiers.

LIBYA

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE PRESIDENT LEAVES TRIPOLI

LD031348Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa, president of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, left Tripoli at noon today at the end of a visit of several days to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

President Manuel Pinto Da Costa was given an official sendoff at Tripoli international airport by Staff Major Brother 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud. Brother secretaries, under secretaries, and heads of the diplomatic missions were also present.

Dr Manuel made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said: On leaving the land of the revolution, the Jamahiriyah, it gives me pleasure to express my thanks and gratitude to Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and to the heroic Libyan people for the hospitality and warm welcome which my delegation and I received while in the Jamahiriyah.

We in the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe salute and appreciate the noble attitudes and the great efforts by Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi toward the struggling peoples in Africa and the world. We would like to reaffirm our support for our solidarity with the Libyan Arab people, under the leadership of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, until victory for the whole of Africa is achieved.

Joint Statement Issued

LD032150Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text of joint statement issued 3 May in Sao Tome and Tripoli at the end of the visit of Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa, president of Sao Tome and Principe, to Libya]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution and secretary general of the People's General Congress, Dr Manuel Da Costa, secretary general of the Liberation Movement of Sao Tome and Principe and president of the republic, paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] at the head of a high-level delegation from 29 April to 2 May 1978.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, received Manuel Da Costa, and lengthy talks took place. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and the African, Arab and international political situation in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere.

In regard to bilateral relations, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the strong relations between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Sao Tome, and at the development of multilateral cooperation and solidarity between the two countries.

As an expression of their desire to strengthen the promotion of cooperation in the economic, technical, social and cultural fields, two agreements were concluded in the field of agriculture and sea fishing. The minutes of an agreement regarding technical cooperation were also signed. The two sides affirmed that they will undertake to do their utmost so that this cooperation would be an example to be copied in Arab-African relations. This success represents the efforts of the two peoples to liberate themselves from all forms of foreign and imperialist domination.

The two sides decided to exchange diplomatic representatives and open embassies in both Tripoli and Sao Tome.

In the African field, the two sides stress their adherence to the principle of self-determination for the Saharan people and all the peoples who are still under foreign racist domination. The two sides hope that the efforts being made to convene the emergency African summit conference with a view to reaching a just solution to the Saharan conflict will succeed.

The two sides declare their total support for the struggle of the African liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, stressing the continuation of the material support and political backing to all African peoples struggling for liberation and self-determination from colonialism and racism. They assert that armed struggle is the most effective way to expel the colonialists from the continent.

The two sides condemn the cooperation between the racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine and consider this cooperation in opposition to human values and the right of man to freedom.

The two sides express their great satisfaction with and total support for the resolutions of the 30th session of the ministerial council of the African foreign ministers, which met on 20 February, and for the resolutions of the 30th session of the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa, which met in Tripoli on 12 February.

The two sides condemn imperialist attempts to create pacts and military blocs between imperialism and the states of the continent, for this endangers the security and safety of the African peoples and leads to the division of the states of the continent.

The two sides call on African states not to join such military blocs, in accordance with the principles of nonalinement.

The two sides strongly condemn imperialist interference in the affairs of the African continent, aimed at internationalizing African disagreements and problems so as to serve as an outlet for imperialism and as an excuse for its intervention, thus returning to the defunct colonialist eras. The two sides believe in the ability of the African people and the OAU to find the right solutions to their problems.

The two sides also stress the exceptional ability of the African people to unite against the attempts to divide them, and they call on progressive forces to work to create a united front to confront the foreign forces intervening in Africa.

In this connection they bless the step taken by the SPLAJ, Sudan and Niger to make a success of the reconciliation meeting among the brothers in Chad, which were crowned by the Sabha conference on 21 February 1978 and the meetings of all parties on 23 and 24 March 1978 in Sabha and Benghazi.

In regard to the Arab sphere, the two sides call for Arab and African cohesion and unity. They stress the importance of the joint role played by the Arab-African group for world cultural and economic progress to liberate and free it from imperialist hegemony and monopolies. Joint cooperation between these two groups is beneficial to the peoples of the Third World in general, and through historic and geographical relations the Arab and African groups will be able to play an effective and influential role in the world arena and in various spheres.

When they studied what befell the Palestinian issue as a result of the arrogance and pomposity of the racist Zionists, the two sides confirmed their determination and insistence on backing and supporting the Palestinian people to regain their land and all their usurped rights by escalating the legitimate struggle which this people is waging.

In this regard, the two sides condemn every initiative aimed at banishing the Palestinian people from handling their cause, for no one has the right to handle it in the name of the Palestinians.

Regarding the world sphere, while the two sides stress their commitment to the charter and principles of the United Nations, they consider it necessary to amend the charter of the organization so that it would realize justice and equality among all nations, small and big, and demand the abolition of the "veto." They also call for finding a new world economic system which would recognize the right of participation of the countries of the Third World on the basis of justice and equality.

During the talks, Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi spoke about the principles of the Great 1 September Revolution and the achievements it has scored in the internal and external spheres, as shown in the rise of the people's authority, which has been realized through the popular conferences and committees in accordance with the writings in the first part of the Green Book.

Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa expressed confidence that the SPAJ enjoys the esteem and respect of all peace-loving peoples and many world progressive governments for its revolutionary genuineness and for its unhesitating committment to confronting all attempts to harm the right of people to struggle for their progress.

Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa acquainted Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with the success of the people of Sao Tome and Principe in the march for political, economic and social reforms in the country to establish social justice and progress. He explained to him the efforts exerted to control the national resources, and the commitment of the people of Sao Tome and Principe to the solidarity of African unity and the strengthening of Arab-African solidarity.

Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa has extended to Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi an official invitation to visit the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. The invitation was gratefully accepted, and the date of the visit will be fixed later on.

Issued in Tripoli 3 May 1978.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CABLE FROM FROLINAT LEADER

LD032022Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has received a cable from Wadaye Goukouai, leader of the Chadian National Liberation Front [FROLINAT]. It says:

True Islamic greetings. We are fighting for peace. After all the meetings that took place in Sabha and Benghazi and after all the efforts you exerted to establish security in our dear homeland, yet, leader brother, we all know that dealings and reconciliation with reaction and colonailism are impossible because double dealings have always been one of the qualities of reaction and colonialism. After all the efforts you exerted and your stand, which our people will never forget, and all your efforts on behalf of national reconciliation, to which you gave all your efforts and valuable time, and according to all these considerations and in true appreciation of your position of leadership, brother leader, allow me to explain the situation to you. It is as follows:

1. After agreement in principle for reconciliation was reached, we respected the provisions of the agreement. However, Malloum's government refused to cooperate with the committee and did not respect these provisions.

2. Malloum's government began to attack our revolutionaries through the mercenaries, only because they walked close to the wire;

3. There were demonstrations in all parts of Chad and the government of Chad called for help from the mercenaries and killed five of our people in Absha and Bahr al-Ghazal;

4. Now all the people of Chad are with the revolutionaries and have asked us to break the mercenaries' siege around them.

TURKISH-LIBYAN AGREEMENTS, PROTOCOL SIGNED IN TRIPOLI

TA021742Y Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 2 May 78 TA

[Text] A commercial and financial cooperation agreement envisaging Libyan loans to Turkey and the increase of Turkish exports to Libya was signed in Tripoli today. The agreement was signed on behalf of Turkey by Minister of State Hikmet Cetin, who had gone to Libya for bilateral talks, and on behalf of Libya by Secretary of Housing Muhammad al-Manqush.

TRT correspondent Omer Dilek reports that according to the agreement, Turkey is to receive a loan of $100 million from Libya. Turkey's export volume to Libya will be increased to $85 million annually. According to the agreement, Turkey will export 230,000 tons of wheat, 15,000 tons of olive oil, 10,000 tons of tomato sauce and other agricultural products to Libya this year. The agreement will be valid for 5 years.

A banking agreement and a protocol envisaging cooperation in the agricultural and industrial fields were also signed between Turkey and Libya in Tripoli today. According to the banking agreement, the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank will open an account with the aim of speedily transferring to Turkey the savings of Turkish workers employed in Libya. Through this account, Turkish workers will be able to send foreign currency to Turkey. According to the protocol, it was decided to form joint companies in the fields of wheat, sugar and animal fodder in Turkey and in the field of [word indistinct] in Libya. According to the protocol, a joint Turkish-Libyan construction and renovation firm to be set up in Libya will construct a dockyard in Libya. The protocol also envisages ship services between Tripoli, the capital of Libya, and Izmir to transport passengers, equipment and goods. The ship services envisaged to be established soon will also have refrigerated depots.

Meanwhile, Cetin today visited Libyan Prime Minister [title as heard] Abd as-Salam Jallud and gave him a message from Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. Cetin will leave Tripoli for Sofia this evening to participate in Ecevit's official visit to Bulgaria.

Turkish Official Departs

LD030952Y Tripoli JANA in English 0902 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 3, JANA--The Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, Mr Mr Hikmet Cetin, left Tripoli airport yesterday after a short visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he had talks with the Jamahiriyah's officials.

He was seen off by Mr Muhammad al-Manqush, the housing secretary, and other officials at the Housing Secretariat.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES MALIAN, SUDANESE COUNTERPARTS

LD291106Y Tripoli JANA in English 0853 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 29, JANA--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, received his Sudanese and Malian counterparts at his residence place in Dakar yesterday.

He discussed with the two foreign ministers the situation in Africa and means to promote bilateral relations, as well as the issues on the agenda of the 9th session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference currently meeting in Dakar.

On the other hand, Dr at-Turayki chaired the meeting of the four-member committee for Philippines the day before yesterday. The latest developments in the situation in southern Philippines and the oppression to which the Filipino Moslems are subjugated were discussed at the meeting. A report on this issue will be drawn up by the committee and put forward to the conference.

MOROCCO

INFORMATION MINISTER DENIES MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN CONTACTS ON SAHARA

LD032305Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Rabat--In an interview given to the magazine AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI, Mohamed Larbi Khattabi, Moroccan minister of information, suggested the convening of a restricted Arab summit bringing together the confrontation countries, the Palestine Liberation Organization and two other Arab states, with a view to solving the bilateral misunderstandings and finding a consensus on the basic issues relating to the situation in the Arab world. In this telephone conversation with reporter Houda Husseini, Khattabi, after denying the existence of contacts between Moroccan and Algerian leaders on the Sahara issue, discussed the southern Lebanon situation, saying that more than anything Morocco would like an immediate and total withdrawal by Israel. The rest, he said, will be solved by the Lebanese Government and the parties concerned.

On the subject of Moroccan-Algerian contacts on the question of the Sahara, the information minister stated: "I can say that I know absolutely nothing of these meetings. Apart from a few suppositions which have appeared in the Arab and foreign press and been picked up by international news agencies, I know nothing of any meeting of this kind."

Recently, the independent parliamentary group led by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman denied these so-called contacts with the Algerians. Speaking of the situation in the Moroccan Sahara, Khattabi stressed that Algeria continues to maintain tension in the Sahara and that, from time to time, groups armed by Algeria make incursions into the Sahara from Tindouf.

Asked about Moroccan units stationed in Mauritania, the information minister said that 8,000 Moroccan soldiers are in Mauritania, in accordance with the joint defense agreement between Morocco and Mauritania. This is aimed at defending the Zouirat-Nouadhibou railroad line, as the minerals from Zouirat constitute the pillar of the Mauritanian economy.

Khattabi also said that there will be no military agreement between Morocco and the USSR following the signing of the agreement of the century by Morocco and the USSR. He said that Morocco has expressed no desire to buy arms from the Soviet Union and that this agreement is within a purely economic framework.

The minister of information also said that Morocco would participate in the forthcoming African summit in Khartoum in accordance with the agenda prepared by the acting president of the OAU and the OAU general secretary, even if the question of the Sahara is to be raised. However, this possibility will not arise because it has already been decided to hold an extraordinary conference to discuss tension between Morocco and Algeria. Gabon President Hadj Omar Bongo had accepted his own country as the venue for this conference but subsequently withdrew his proposal in view of the fact that only 7 countries out of 40 agreed to participate.

BEGIN: NO BREAKTHROUGH IN U.S., JUST BETTER ATMOSPHERE

TA040934Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 May 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yo'el Marcus, U.S. correspondent]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has gone back on his optimistic expressions and denied having ever said that we are on the brink of a breakthrough in the peace process. Talking with the HA'AREZ correspondent, the prime minister denied having said he is optimistic and that a breakthrough is to be expected or any other similar expression. All I said, the prime minister said, is that there has been an improvement in the atmosphere in the administration.

This surprising denial was made on the way to Chicago, 24 hours after the prime minister had told the HA'AREZ correspondent and later a group of six correspondents, among them foreign correspondents, that a breakthrough is to be expected, and that he hopes that after he brought "significant proposals" to the administration, marked progress is to be expected.

These remarks by the prime minister have been greatly emphasized in the media and have even appeared as front page headlines in some newspapers, as well as at the beginning of several radio and television news broadcasts.

This denial of what the prime minister said in the presence of many witnesses has resulted in various interpretations. One interpretation is that when Begin voiced these optimistic expressions he was still under the influence of the White House ceremony and President Carter's warm speech. Another possibility is that he was influenced by the hints that came that day from the White House to the effect that it did not at this stage see any ground for the prime minister's optimism, as there was no change in positions.

It could be gathered from these reservations in Washington that the administration was not happy with the disclosure of several quiet moves, especially with regard to the possibility of softening the Egyptian position, by bombastic declarations which might harm progress in the quiet diplomacy method.

It seems that, as in March, the administration did not show any inclination to create the impression that the gap between the administration and the Government of Israel concerning the moves regarding the future of the West Bank has diminished.

In his speech in Los Angeles, and today in Chicago, the prime minister did not repeat that he is going to present the administration with significant proposals, as he had told the HA'AREZ correspondent and other correspondents aboard the plane on the way to Los Angeles.

Correspondents accompanying the entourage have also observed that there has been no shift from Mr Begin's peace plan or from his argument that the obstacle on the way to peace is As-Sadat's demands for total withdrawal and for self-determination. It is not inconceivable that As-Sadat's speech also caused Begin to go back on his exaggerated expressions of optimism.

Why Did He Go Back on His Words?

At a late hour the HA'AREZ U.S. correspondent reported: It has been learned that the optimistic words that the prime minister has reversed resulted from reports he has received that Egypt is reported ready to submit its own proposals on the basis of the Israeli proposal for self-rule in the West Bank, taking into account the security arrangements demanded by Israel.

DAYAN REPORTS ON TALKS IN WASHINGTON

TA031510Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] In his talks in Washington Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan received the impression that the U.S. consent to an Israeli military presence in Judaea and Samaria over and beyond the period of 5 years had been coordinated with Egypt. The foreign minister yesterday briefed the deputy prime minister, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, as well as members of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee on his talks.

It emerges from Dayan's report that no substantial change has occurred in the U.S. position, but that there is a U.S.-Egyptian coordination, and positions which the United States presented to Israel from time to time as its own were adopted either following President as-Sadat's initiative or after they had been examined with him and proved to be acceptable to him.

Dayan said the United States no longer insisted on the holding of a national referendum in Judaea and Samaria after 5 years and that it was ready to consider alternative possibilities, including such as would be proposed by Israel.

It may be assumed that one of the issues the cabinet must decide upon in order to reply to the United States will be a proposal or proposals about developments that would take place in the West Bank and in Gaza 5 years after the inception of autonomy according to the Israeli plan.

The Israeli proposal according to this plan is to leave the situation open and to examine it after 5 years without determining in advance the aims and results of such an examination. It seems that neither the United States nor Egypt is willing to make do with such a vague definition of the West Bank's future.

Dayan gave details about the position he had presented in his talks in Washington, about negotiating on substantive issues while skipping the formulation of the declaration of principles and leaving it to a later stage, when considerable areas of Egyptian-Israeli agreement would accumulate. He reported that the United States had again requested that Israel freeze the establishing of settlements in the territories as long as the negotiations continue.

CHRISTIAN RADIO CLAIMS CUBANS ATTACKED FRENCH UNIT

TA031956Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 May 78 TA

[Text] The Christian radio in Beirut reported this evening that Cuban soldiers and experts were the ones who yesterday night attacked the French unit's camp near Tyre. The radio reported that 400 Cuban soldiers and military experts have arrived in Lebanon from the African Horn: some of them are stationed in southern Lebanon and some in Beirut. The Cubans are training George Habash's Popular Front soldiers and are planning the operations for them. Yesterday they carried out a real operation: they hit the French camp with mortars. Our monitor, Mikha'el Gurdus, listened to the Christian radio's broadcast from Beirut.

Two weeks ago, the leader of the PFLP, George Habash, visited Cuba, and it was then, apparently, that the details of the Cuban involvement in Lebanon were concluded.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF INCIDENT NEAR TYRE DISCUSSED

TA031355Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 3 May 78 TA

[Text] So far there has been no official Israeli reaction to the latest events in southern Lebanon, but Arye Yehezqel has been sounding out informed sources on their view of the developments.

One source noted that last night's miniwar between French troops and their attackers took place in the city of Tyre which has never been under Israeli control. Another source points out that unfortunately this is not the first time that UN soldiers have been killed in southern Lebanon, although this was perhaps the most serious clash so far. This source said that however the United Nations views the actions of the terrorists and their allies, Israel is hardly surprised. What will Israel do about it? Essentially it is not Israel's direct problem, I was told, but rather the problem of the United Nations, which has undertaken to keep the peace in the southern Lebanon area.

But in a sense this is begging the question since Israel has undertaken to withdraw from the whole of southern Lebanon, including the security belt bordering on Israel which the Israel Defense Forces currently hold. The sources say that the hesitancy expressed by some Israelis about the pace of withdrawal called for by the Security Council, will perhaps be better understood. Israel moved into southern Lebanon in order to protect her towns and villages in the north of the country against terrorist attacks. She undertook to withdraw on the understanding that this function would now be carried out by the blue berets of the UN force, and also that the interest and well-being of the Christian enclaves would also be safeguarded. Will what has been happening on the ground lead to reassessment of the Israeli position? Conceivably it could, but of course, the consideration here would be largely political.

WEIZMAN VISITS IDF CAMPS IN S. LEBANON

TA032003Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 May 78 TA

[Text] Today Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman visited IDF units in southern Lebanon and inspected the deployment along the new line. During his visit in the Ra's an-Naqurah area, the defense minister met the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, and in the villages of Marj 'Uyun and Dib'il he conferred with the commanders of the Christian forces, Major Haddad and Major Shidyaq.

HISTADRUT PROTESTS AGAINST FRG ARMS DEAL WITH SYRIA

TA031446Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 May 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Histadrut Secretary General MK Yeruham Meshel has sent a letter to the chairman of the West German Trade Union Federation, Heinz Oskar Peter, pointing out the business deal between the Franco-German concern "Euromissile" and the Government of Syria. The letter stresses that the appearance of such an advanced antitank weapon close to the borders of Israel and in the hands of one of its most pronounced foes constitutes a further danger to peace.

After receiving the letter, Peter sent a cable to FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt protesting against the fact that the FRG Government acceded to the deal and voicing his reservations about the statement issued by the Bundestag on the affair. The chancellor is asked to exercise his authority and forbid the delivery of the weapons to the Syrians.

OPPOSING PEACE GROUPS DISCUSS MOTIVATIONS

'Peace Now'

TA031630Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Hayyim Shivi]

[Excerpts] A "peace fund" to facilitate the financing of informational and educational activities to further the aims of the "Peace Now" Movement has been established following the mustering of a group of industrialists, senior executives and intellectuals in Tel Aviv.

At a meeting in the home of the "Vanitrol" concern director, Shula Koenig, which was attended by some 40 personalities of the economy, among them Yequti'el Federmann; Nimrod Eshel; Chen Berski; Shim'on Kleer, director of "Argaman"; Ya'ir Rothlevy, director of "Rotex"; Uri Bernstein, director of the Amcor concern; and by others, it was decided to form a circle that would be able to give the "Peace Now" Movement moral and economic backing.

By the end of this month, the group of industrialists, which works in close cooperation with academicians such as the historians Yig'al 'Ilam and Yosef Gorni, will hold a lecture day for promoters, and it intends to arrange about 1,000 home meetings throughout the country.

The "Peace Now" Movement reacted last night to reports about a demonstration of Israelis in Los Angeles against the prime minister. The action committee of the movement told our correspondent that "the movement for peace is taking firm exception to attempts by Israeli groups abroad to use the name of the movement in demonstrations such as the one staged in Los Angeles. The movement maintains that Israelis should be waging their public struggle in Israel."

'Secure Peace'

TA031633Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 78 p 5 TA

[By Bina Barzel]

[Text] Industrialist Re'uven Vitale, member of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council, began yesterday to form a body of people from industry and the economy in support of the initiative of the "Secure Peace" Movement.

Vitale said yesterday he had secured agreements from a number of textile industrialists to participate on that body, the first meeting of which has been set for next week. Yosef Zarhin of "Syntex"; Ernst Wodak of "Aderet"; Zevi Yacubowitz of the "Keshet" conglomerate; Binyamin Ostrov, director of the Textile Branch in the Industrialists Association; Yisra'el Shenkar of "Zinkal" and others. Vitale wants to form a group that will have at least a hundred members.

Vitale said the industrialists who, as a rule avoid political involvement, have been forced to organize themselves in reaction to the unprecedented activity among some of their ranks who announced their support for the "Peace Now" Movement. Hayyim Stanger, a "Secure Peace" Movement leader, yesterday criticized members of the "Peace Now" Movement who, led by the son of Col (Res.) Mati Peled, demonstrated against the prime minister in Los Angeles. Stranger said that "at a time when the prime minister is promoting a breakthrough that would bring about the resumption of negotiations with Cairo, a "Peace Now" group demonstrated against him side-by-side with supporters of the PLO.

JUDAEA, SAMARIA NOTABLES ON COMMANDER'S DISMISSAL

TA031845Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 3 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Today in Judaea and Samaria there were those who reacted with some satisfaction to the decision by the defense minister and the chief of staff to remove the commander of Judaea and Samaria from office and to put the commander of Bethlehem and his deputy on trial. In Bethlehem and Bayt Jala claims were heard that the security forces could not have avoided the actual events, which demanded the decisions they made. However, there were also notables who expressed sorrow about this ending to Brig Gen David Hago'el's term of office. Many of them expressed the hope that the Bayt Jala incident would be forgotten, and that a more comfortable relationship would be established between the inhabitants and the military government. This Friday Col Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general and will assume command of the Judaea and Samaria region. The notables hope the area's new commander will make a change in policy.

MAY DAY MARCH TERMED POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION

TA021436Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 May 78 p 9 TA

[Arye Avneri article]

[Excerpts] During the period of the British Mandate the Histadrut took advantage of the 1 May march and turned it into a political demonstration. Since the establishment of the state there has been a decline in the significance of these marches, and pamphlets against the government have been distributed only in Nazereth or Jaffa, usually by the Communist Party or RAKAH.

Yesterday, perhaps for the first time since the establishment of the state, the 1 May march turned into a political demonstration against the government's policies and against its leaders despite the original intention being to hold a march of achievement. This was a kind of reminder of the fact that about a year ago a turnabout took place and, for the first time, the workers movement went into the opposition.

The demonstration also manifests the opposition of many to the celebrating of 1 May--for example, a placard raised above one vehicle said: "Our flag is blue and white and our celebration is independence day."

In the past 1 May parades were different from the one that took place yesterday. In the past the leaders of the labor movement, cabinet ministers as well as senior activists in the Histadrut followed by thousands of workers marched. Yesterday, the leaders of the workers movement were absent from among the marchers and the number of workers was very small. This was mainly an "educational march" aimed at informing the public of the achievements and history of the labor movement since, in recent years, the Histadrut has desisted from going to the street.

The person responsible for the demonstration, the secretary of the Tel Aviv Workers Council, Dov Ben-Me'ir, again claimed yesterday that there was no intention of the "Histadrut showing any muscle" as he put it. He was behind the idea of renewing the tradition of 1 May 2 years ago when he took office and only because of technical reasons and the Histadrut elections last year was this postponed.

"I regret that the Likud did not participate in yesterday's parade" Ben-Me'ir said. "The parade was aimed at presenting all parts of the Histadrut and not only the workers movement." The leader of the Likud faction in the Histadrut, Yosef Tamaria reacted by saying, "1 May is not our festival but that of the set union which is intent on destroying the State of Israel. We cannot support this."

AFGHAN COUP STIRS TRIBAL UNREST ALONG IRAN-AFGHAN BORDER

BK031025Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] Teheran, May 3 (AFP)--The recent coup d'etat in neighbouring Afghanistan has provoked an upsurge of restlessness among tribes along Iran's eastern border, it was learnt here today.

Iranian authorities have reinforced army garrisons along the Afghan border and also in the area bordering Pakistan's Baluchistan region. Air patrols along the border have also been increased, informed sources said.

These measures have been presented here as a logical and automatic reaction to the take-over by Afghani military elements, reportedly of Marxist tendency and sympathetic to the Soviet Union.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO MOROCCO

LD031130Y Teheran PARS in English 1017 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency) 2 May--Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari arrived in Teheran on Monday night at the end of his official visit to Morocco, made at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart, M'hamed Boucetta. At Mehrabad Airport, Khal'atbari told reporters that bilateral projects and cooperation between Iran and Morocco were progressing well. He said that his negotiations with Moroccan officials on the expansion of cooperation will be reviewed by experts in the foreign affairs ministries of the two countries.

Khal'atbari said that the major topics of his discussions with Moroccan officials were Arab-Israeli relations, the Middle East situation and the situation in Africa, especially that in the Horn and west Africa. He added that Morocco is an African as well as an Arab country and has representatives all over Africa. Thus, said Khal'atbari, Iran was the listener during talks on the African situation.

Khal'atbari noted that he had invited Boucetta to visit Iran, which would provide a good opportunity to continue bilateral negotiations. He also said that an Iranian delegation will visit Morocco at the end of this Iranian month for talks on oil with Moroccan officials.

Khal'atbari was welcomed at the airport by the Moroccan and Senegalese ambassadors to the Imperial Court, El Ghali Benhima and Massamba Sarre, a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry and also by the Italian foreign minister, Arnaldo Forlani, who arrived in Teheran shortly before Khal'atbari.

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI ARRIVES IN TEHERAN

LD031120Y Teheran PARS in English 1010 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency) 2 May--Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani arrived in Teheran for a four-day official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, at 11 p.m. on Monday night. He was welcomed at the airport by a number of Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and the Italian ambassador to the Imperial Court, Giulio Tamaganini.

On his arrival at Mehrabad Airport, Forlani told reporters that his visit to Iran was an opportunity to hold talks with his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr, Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar, Foreign Minister Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari and a number of other high-ranking officials. He said that his country was interested in expanding economic as well as political relations with Iran and that he would be discussing international issues and the possibilities of further increasing economic relations, including those concerning oil, with Iranian officials. An Italian economic delegation, including a representative of the Fiat company, would come to Iran in the future to follow up the talks, Forlani said.

Referring to terrorism and Aldo Moro's kidnapping, he said that Moro's kidnappers wanted to strengthen their position in Italy, Europe and other parts of the world but that Italy opposed and fought against terrorism and had taken a strong stand against the kidnappers. The Italian Government, Forlani said, was against any discussions or reconciliations which would threaten Italy's territorial integrity but was prepared to take any measures to allow Moro to return to his family, his party, and his country. Forlani said that at present there was extensive cooperation in Europe to eradicate terrorism.

On African issues, Forlani said that he was worried but that there were also confrontations in other areas which made both Iran and Italy interested in implementing a constructive policy to overcome the reasons for such confrontations and thus achieve international detente as a guarantee for international peace. He said that Iran had an important role in maintaining international equilibrium and stressed that Italy was eager to know the Iranian Government's views on international events.

Confers With Shah

AU030943Y Rome ANSA in English 0800 GMT 3 May 78 AU

[Text] Teheran, May 3 (ANSA)--Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani holds official talks here today with his Iranian counterpart Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari and Premier Jamshid Amuzegar after having received assurances from Shah Reza Pahlavi of the oil-rich state's willingness to expand bilateral economic ties. Forlani conferred at length with the Iranian monarch yesterday in the royal residence of Shiraz.

Iran, Italy's fourth biggest oil supplier, was described by Forlani in Shiraz yesterday as the country that offers the best business prospects for Italian industry outside the realm of the European economic community. The Near Eastern state has a gigantic five-year development plan on the drawing boards and its enormous oil revenues makes it an enviable partner for Italian private and public industries.

The shah's overt bent for Italian industry apparently comes from the successful role played by it so far in his country's economic development. As Forlani put it, "Italian firms and specialized labor have been excellent ambassador in Iran".

Economic cooperation between the two has particularly good prospects for development in the field of major infrastructures, like the Bander-Abbas port and steel mill currently under construction by Italian contractors. Joint ventures between both private and public Italian and Iranian businesses will be studied in the near future as well.

Iran also showed a sharp interest in the role that small and medium-sized Italian businesses could play in a bid to keep the social imbalances of rapid industrial development down to a minimum. The good intentions that emerged during Forlani's talks in Shiraz yesterday will be followed up in the immediate future when a "highly qualified" delegation of Italian businessmen visits the Near Eastern state.

Aside from the shah, Forlani also met yesterday with the president of the Iranian state oil corporation "NIOC", former finance and trade minister (Ansari).

The two men explored the prospects for cooperation between "NIOC" and "ENI", its Italian counterpart, and especially the possibilities of a major oil-for-technology deal that would involve an increase in Iranian oil supplies to Italy in exchange for stepped up Italian exports of industrialized products.

"ENI" and "NIOC" will be studying the prospects in more detail in coming months after the National Iranian Oil Company has bought out the Abbadan refinery from a foreign consortium including "BP", "EXXON" and "Shell".

Forlani briefed the Iranian monarch on the latest developments of the Italian economic situation and Pahlavi had words of praise for the Rome government's efforts to recover from the crisis. The shah was also updated on the latest developments of the Aldo Moro kidnapping and voiced solidarity for Italy in this regard. The Italian diplomatic chief got the impression that Pahlavi was interested in encouraging the process of detente all over the world and the path of negotiations for settling international conflicts, especially in the Middle East.

Talks With Khal'atbari

LD031845Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar had talks with Arnaldo Forlani, Italy's minister for foreign affairs, this afternoon. During the meeting the two countries' joint relations and cooperation were discussed.

Official talks between Forlani and Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, Iran's minister of foreign affairs, also took place in Teheran this afternoon. During these talks the two ministers explained their countries' positions and policies. Important international issues, particularly with regard to Europe, the Mediterranean region, Africa and the Middle East, and recent developments in Asia were also studied. At the end of the talks, which took place in a sincere atmosphere imbued with understanding, the two ministers expressed satisfaction with the expansion of political, cultural and economic relations between the two countries.

Departs Iran

LD041024Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 4 May 78 LD

[Text] Our country's foreign minister, Mr Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, today held a press conference at Mehrabad Airport while he was seeing off the Italian foreign minister and answered local correspondents' questions regarding the outcome of his talks with his Italian counterpart.

Mr Khal'atbari said his talks with the Italian foreign minister were held in an extremely good and friendly atmosphere and that he talked and exchanged views with the Italian foreign minister on matters relating to bilateral relations in all areas, including political, commercial and cultural, as well as on current international issues, including Near Eastern problems, issues relating to Arab countries, southern Lebanon and other topics such as those relating to Ethiopia and Somalia with which Italy maintains close relations. On the latter topic the Italian side briefed us on the latest developments in that region.

On the common views existing between the two countries, Mr Khal'atbari said: Both countries want to secure peace through negotiations without the use of force and to secure stability for economic progress and the people's welfare.

Regarding Afghanistan, Mr Khal'atbari said: Afghanistan was one of the other topical issues we discussed. But it should be borne in mind that the situation in Afghanistan is not quite clear to us yet. We still have no information from that country's leaders regarding their political objectives or regarding the kind of relations they want to have with us. Of course, the Afghan government has expressed interest in continuing the relations between the two countries in its contacts with the Imperial Iranian Embassy in Kabul. Not only in the case of Afghanistan, but also in the case of all neighboring countries, the Iranian Government is interested in maintaining friendly relations. Of course, progress in this direction depends upon the degree of interest shown by Afghanistan.

BRIEFS

NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR--The shah received the new Australian ambassador at the Imperial Court at Niavaran Palace this morning. During the audience, at which the Imperial Court minister, the deputy foreign minister, the Imperial Court's grand master of ceremonies, the director of the Imperial Court's special bureau and the shah's civil and military adjutants had the honor of being present, the new Australian ambassador presented his credentials to the shah. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA--At the conclusion of the 10th session of the Iranian-Bulgarian ministerial committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation, a protocol and a trade memorandum were signed in Teheran this afternoon. In accordance with this agreement, Iran will import meat, dairy products, ironware and various types of machinery from Bulgaria and, in return, it will export industrial, chemical and petrochemical goods, dried fruit and oil to Bulgaria. Similarly, Iran has announced its readiness to participate in setting up a huge cattle farming complex in Bulgaria, which will secure part of Iran's needs in the field of meat and dairy products. [Excerpts] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 2 May 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI DENIES COMMUNIST LINKS TO REVOLUTION

JN041140Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 4 May 78 JN

[Text] President of the Revolutionary Council Taraki at 1000 yesterday received the representative of the Ministry of Information. The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister (?answered questions) on the false propaganda of certain information media vis-a-vis the (?trend) of the Afghan revolution.

Answering a question, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister said: The foreign enemies, including world reaction, are employing various modern information media against the liberation movements of the world peoples and their progressive regimes. Now our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, has entered a modern era in the history of its revolutionary movement as a result of the victorious 27 April revolution. Rule is now in the hands of the patriotic, progressive and democratic forces. Therefore, malicious people in the world began spreading a series of false, fabricated propaganda [words indistinct] through radios and suspect media. [passage indistinct]

Among the false, fabricated propaganda which is being spread is that the revolution took place in collaboration with this or that country. The truth is that the 27 April revolution was the beginning of a democratic and nationalist revolution of the Afghan people. It was not a coup. This revolutionary armed movement took place within a clear framework under the leadership of patriotic officers and the brave army representing the free will of the Afghan people without any intervention by any foreign country. This revolution enjoys the support of millions of people in Afghanistan.

Secondly, we would like to say that Afghanistan never had a party called the Communist Party and there is not a Communist Party now. However, world reactionary circles are shamelessly saying that thousands of citizens were killed or executed during the revolution. [Words indistinct] the revolutionaries have not carried out any acts in violation of human rights or the Islamic religion or national traditions. To these false imperialist lies, we have live witnesses--the millions of citizens who [words indistinct] the sacred Islamic religion and [words indistinct] human rights or national traditions.

Furthermore, the agents of world reaction are spitting their venom and saying that after the 27 April revolution Afghanistan has become the satellite of this or that country and has abandoned its independent, neutral policy. I say in my reply the following: First, the [passage indistinct]. However, now Afghanistan, under the victorious revolution, is following an independent policy based on benevolent neutrality, freedom of opinion within the framework of [words indistinct]. Afghanistan is building its relations of friendship with other states on the basis of (?whether) these states support the 27 April revolution. [passage indistinct]

AFP: QADIR INTERVIEWED ON RECENT AFGHAN COUP

PA031338Y Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 3 May 78 PA

[Text] Kabul, May 3, (AFP)--Lieutenant-Colonel Abdol Qadir who directed last Thursday's military coup against the late President Mohammad Daud, said here today that "Our revolution signifies the end of feudalism and aristocracy in Afghanistan."

In his first interview since the coup, Lt Col Qadir, who is now defence minister, said that the revolution (?is) aimed at "democracy" and "achieving the people's wishes."

He said the army had the situation well in hand and that the whole country was calm.

"Ninety-nine percent of the population were expecting the overthrow of the old regime," he said. President Daud, he said, had to be killed "because he was offering resistance." He added that Mr Daud's "1973 revolution" had not fulfilled the people's hopes. "Ours will" he said.

Lt Col Qadir said the new regime wanted to have good neighborly relations with all bordering countries--Pakistan, Iran, and the Soviet Union--each of which would be treated on an equal basis, free of favoritism.

Lt Col Qadir concluded the interview, which lasted about 10 minutes, by saying: "Stress the fact that our movement is democratic and Afghan and was achieved autonomously."

In Moscow, TASS news agency, quoting Kabul Radio, said that the Revolutionary Council today ordered the confiscation of the property of what the radio termed "the old reigning dynasty of Nadir Shah." The property now belonged to the Afghan people, the radio said.

SOVIET, INDIAN AMBASSADORS CALL ON DEPUTY PREMIER

LD031200Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] Mr Aleksandr Puzanov, Soviet ambassador in Kabul, paid a courtesy call on Hafezollah Amin, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in his office at 0900 today.

A similar call on the minister of foreign affairs was paid by Indian Ambassador Mr Kumar Singh at 1000.

CUBA, POLAND, HUNGARY ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME

LD031838Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] His Excellency Fernando Flores Ibarra, Cuban Ambassador to Afghanistan, at 1500 this afternoon met with Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Council [Shoray-e Aliy-e Enqelabi] and the premier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in his office and delivered to him his government's message on the Republic of Cuba's recognition of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, His Excellency Boguslaw Paszek, the ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary of the People's Republic of Poland to Kabul, at 1600 this afternoon met with Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and premier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in his office and handed him a note on the recognition of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the People's Republic of Poland. The note, referring to the policy of the People's Republic of Poland based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and respect for their right of national sovereignty and their right to determine their political organization, expressed Poland's desire to develop friendly relations between the peoples of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Poland.

Similarly, the People's Republic of Hungary has recognized the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The People's Republic of Hungary has announced its recognition of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan through its embassy in (?Prague). [sentence indistinct]

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT HOLD JOINT SESSION

LD031306Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] The first joint session of the Revolutionary Council and members of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was held under the chairmanship of Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and prime minister, at 1000 yesterday morning.

The president of the Revolutionary Council, in explaining the great objectives of the victorious revolution of 27 April, drew the attention of the members of the Revolutionary Council and the government toward their numerous duties at this critical and vital moment in the history of Afghanistan and said that the members of the government should start to perform their revolutionary duties.

NEW AFGHAN CABINET HOLDS FIRST MEETING

LD031855Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] The first cabinet meeting of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] was held in the Prime Ministry palace under the chairmanship of Nur Mohammad Taraki, the president of the Revolutionary Council and DRA premier, from 1700 to 1900 today. The ministers presented their work reports to the Cabinet Council. The Cabinet Council also heard the security officials' report to the effect that complete security has been established throughout the country, and life continues as normal. It was mentioned in the report presented to the Cabinet Council that thousands of people, especially workers, farmers, businessmen, intellectuals and teachers, have sent telegrams and messages to the government expressing support for the DRA Revolutionary Council and the brave and unprecedented action of the national armed forces. [passage indistinct]

FINANCE MINISTRY WARNS AGAINST HOARDING, PROFITEERING

LD031913Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 May 78 LD

["Finance Ministry statement"]

[Text] With the coming into power of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], whose wish is to serve the toilers of Afghanistan, this government will combat all forms of profiteering and hereby asks all compatriots who have foodstuffs such as wheat, flour, rice and other grains in their homes or private warehouses to send them to the market in order to meet the requirements of their compatriots. If it is proved that, contrary to this declaration, foodstuffs are witheld by anyone in their homes in the capital or the provinces for profiteering and self-seeking purposes and against the public interest, action will be taken against them in accordance with the military regulations.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES REFORMS

LD031336Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Education of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan wishes to inform all students of elementary schools who have been deprived in the previous competitive examinations from pursuing their studies under the frivolous and hollow reforms of the antidemocratic and antipeople regime of Sardar Mohammad Daud, the traitor, that the doors to high schools are fully open to them.

And from the beginning of the new school year, in the urban and rural regions they can continue their studies in orderly and disciplined manner. Restrictions of competitive examinations for the graduates of the eighth grade of the Ministry of Education are henceforth completely abolished.

AFP REPORTER VIEWS MOOD IN KABUL FOLLOWING COUP

BK031613Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[By Jean Francois Le Mounier]

[Text] Kabul, May 3 (AFP)--Crowds of sightseers flocked in to the Afghan presidential palace grounds when fighting in the capital, which began during last Thursday's coup d'etat, finally died down.

Tens of thousands, including women and children, swarmed in holiday mood around the buildings inspecting the combat damage. Furniture belonging to former President Mohammad Daud, killed in the putsch, had been thrown from windows into the gardens below. Groups stood chatting to the visiting families, and criticised the "opulent" lifestyle of the former regime's leaders.

Tanks stationed outside the palace were decked out with flowers and paper garlands. The palace built for King Nadir Shah in the 1930s showed marks of the fighting and was declared out of bounds. A giant effigy of former President Daud, painted on a surrounding wall, was riddled with bullets, its eyes missing.

In the town, pictures of the former leader which had previously hung in shops and public buildings, had been removed.

KABUL RADIO REPORTS PROVINCES CELEBRATE REVOLUTION

LD031825 [Editorial report LD] Kabul in Dari to Europe in its 1230 GMT newscast on 3 May carries reports from a number of provinces on the people's welcome of the 27 April revolution.

The people of Logar Province and its various districts, the radio reports, held a ceremony in the Logar Governorate headquarters on 2 May attended by thousands of officials, teachers, farmers, workers and students. The people expressed their congratulations at the election of Nur Mohammad Taraki as president of the Revolutionary Council and premier and prayed for the progress and prosperity of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

People, officials, students, farmers and teachers in Nahrin District of Baghlan Province presented Maj Gen Sarjang Hanafi, the governor and military commander of Baghlan with a wreath of flowers and asked him to convey their congratulations to Taraki, the radio says, adding that another ceremony was also held in the Khowst Va Fereng District of Baghlan Province yesterday when the people there pledged their loyalty and support to the revolution.

The victory was also celebrated by thousands of people in Takhar Province, the radio reports. Officials, teachers, students and workers went to the governorate headquarters and asked that their congratulations be conveyed to Taraki. The radio continued:

Our correspondent adds that the officials, workers, farmers, teachers, students and businessmen of the Province of Pakhar continue their daily work while observing military regulations. The correspondent adds that the buying and selling of foodstuffs continue as normal and reduction has taken place in the price of some foodstuffs.

The radio also reports a grand ceremony in Badakhshan Province on 1 May at which the people of Badakhshan expressed their cooperation and support for the consolidation of the revolutionary order. The people of Jorm, Keshm, Eshkashem, Darwas, Wakhan, Baharak, Shahr-e Bozorg and Khahan also held ceremonies on the succes of the revolution.

The people of Samagan Province have also celebrated the revolution and the election of Taraki as president of the Revolutionary Council and expressed their best wishes for his success in realizing the high aims of the revolution, the radio says.

Kandahar Province Support

LD031308Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] The officials, staff and workers of the factories in Kandahar, intellectuals and inhabitants of the center and environs of the province, on the occasion of the appointment of the deputies of the Revolutionary Council, deputy prime ministers and other ministers, expressed their sincere congratulations to Mir Tahmas Ra'is, the governor and military commander of Kandahar, and expressed their joy on the [word indistinct] election of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [RCDRA]. Similarly, they expressed their (?support for) the new regime and prayed to Almighty God for the success of the RCDRA, for the progress of the country and service of the people.

In reply, Mir Tahmas Ra'is, the governor and military commander of Kandahar armed forces, expressed his appreciation for their (?best) and patriotic feelings and, while praying for the progress of beloved Afghanistan, said that the state and the new democratic regime of Afghanistan will spare no effort and sacrifice for the fulfillment of the sacred aim.

Parwan, Laghman Support

LD031212Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 3 May 78 LD

[Text] The inhabitants and officials of Parwan Province, in a congratulatory telegram to the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [RCDRA], offered felicitations on the victory of the revolution of 27 April under the leadership of the national armed forces and expressed their full support for the democratic objectives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Similarly, the inhabitants and officials of Laghman Province, in a telegram to the RCDRA, offered their congratulations on the victory of the revolution of April 27th under the leadership of our national armed forces and pledged their full support for the democratic objective of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH

NOMINATION OF TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES REJECTED

BK021331Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] Nomination papers of 9 of the 11 presidential candidates were found valid after scrutiny by the returning officer at the Election Commission in Dacca today.

The valid nominated candidates include the chairman of the Jatiyatabadi Front, Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, and the nominee of the [words indistinct], retired Gen M.A.G. Osmani.

Other candidates whose nomination papers were found valid: Syed Serajul Huda, Mr Abdul Bashar, Mr Abdul Samad, Principal Abdul Hamid, Hakim Maulana Kabiruddin Ahmed, Mr Azizul Islam and Sheikh Mohammad Abu Bakar.

The candidates whose nomination papers were rejected are Mr Waliul Islam Chowdhury and Mr Gholam Moshid.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is on the 7th of this month.

INDIA

MINISTER REPORTS MARCH CLASH WITH NAGA INSURGENTS

BK031633Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 (AFP)--A group of Naga insurgents was intercepted by Indian security forces on March 1 last when it tried to enter the Indian territory in Nagaland from across the border with Burma, Parliament was officially told today.

Junior Interior Minister Dhanik Lal Mandal said one member of the group was killed in a scuffle with the security forces while all others were taken into custody along with some arms, ammunition and other materials.

There had been reports earlier that insurgents returning from China, after allegedly receiving training in guerrilla warfare and arms supplies, were camping in Burmese border areas before "infiltrating" back into Nagaland. The minister, however did not give any further details.

PDRY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN DELHI 3 MAY

BK031520Y Delhi ISI in English 1436 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister of South Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, arrived in New Delhi on 3 May and said that military bases in the Indian Ocean constituted a threat to the peace and security of the region, reports PTI.

Hasani, who is making a 21-hour halt in Delhi on his way back home after visiting Hanoi, expressed great satisfaction that India desired to develop bilateral cooperation with Yemen, preserving peace and security in the Indian Ocean region.

"This can be achieved by the absence of all imperialist military bases which constitute a threat to peace and security in the region", he said, while talking to newsmen at Delhi airport.

Hasani was welcomed at the airport by Commerce Minister Mohan Dharia, Foreign Secretary J.S. Mehta and diplomatic representatives. He is accompanied by a 29-member party which includes three ministers.

The Yemeni leader spoke warmly about the strong ties between his country and India and said the two people were connected by common struggles. He hoped to exchange views on matters of mutual concern with a view to strengthening the bilateral relations.

Welcoming [him], Mohamed Dharia also recalled the strong ties between the two countries and expressed the hope that these bonds would be further strengthened by the visit.

PAKISTAN

MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN KARACHI

BK0308585Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen arrived in Karachi this morning on a 3-day visit to Pakistan.

Talking to a Radio Pakistan representative at the airport, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said that he has come on the invitation of the Pakistani Government and that during his stay he will meet with government officials, exchange views on bilateral relations between the two fraternal Moslem countries and explore prospects for further cooperation in fields of mutual interest.

The Malaysian foreign minister said he will also exchange views on economic and political affairs and hold talks on a cultural agreement between the two countries.

Today, the Malaysian foreign minister will call on the acting president, Justice S. Anwarul Haq, and the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Tomorrow, he will meet with the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi. The formal talks between them are scheduled for tomorrow.

HAQ PESSIMISTIC ABOUT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FORMATION

BK0317185Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] The chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, is meeting political leaders in Lahore tonight.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Lahore this evening, he said he was meeting them to brief them on some important issues, because they were political leaders of the country.

Asked about the progress in the formation of the national government, he said it had been on his own initiative. He said if there was no progress, the proposal will die its own death.

The chief martial law administrator was received at the airport by the acting governor of the Punjab, Mr Justice Aslam Riaz Hussain; the provincial martial law administrator, Lt Gen Savar Khan; and senior civil and military officials.

SRI LANKA

ALGERIAN ENVOY CALLS ON JAYEWARDENE, HAMEED

BK0311145Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 May 78 BK

[Text] Mr Mohammed Kellou, special envoy of the president of Algeria, Mr Houari Boumediene, met the president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, last evening and handed over a message to him from his president.

Mr Kellou, who is the president of the Commission on Foreign Affairs of the Algerian parliament, met the minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, and had talks with him on the forthcoming nonalined conference and discussed the Western Sahara situation.

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